

St. Augustine Catholic Church

April 28, 2024

5th Sunday of Easter



Photo courtesy of Villanova University
Artist Vernon Adams

Rev. Stephan Brown, SVD, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Curtiss Talley, Deacon ~~~ Rev. Mr. Andrew Terry, Deacon

PASTORAL TEAM

Office Manager

Karen Owens

Pastoral Team Asst.

Lenora Morris

Bookkeepers

Brandy Oltremari

Dianna Crawford

Ministers of Music

Gwen Atkins

Robert Clayborne

Leo Davis, DMA

Dir. of Religious Education

Henry & Ruby Snowden

Maintenance Engineer

Luke Mukenge

Health Ministry

Helen Oliver

Youth Ministry

Marissa Gooden

1169 Kerr Avenue, Memphis, TN 38106

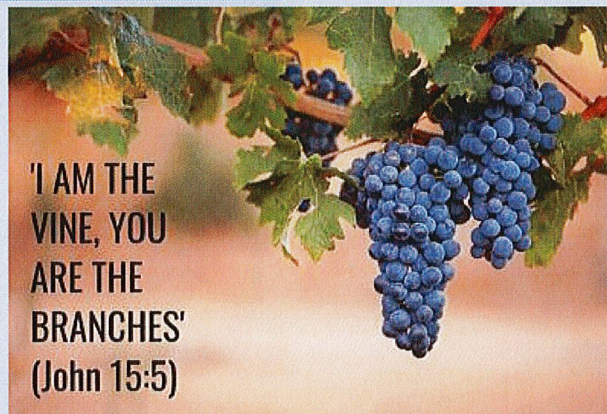
Phone~ 901.774.2297 Fax~ 901.774.1067

Web: www.staugustinememphis.net

E-Mail: staug.info@staugustine.cdom.org

Facebook: St. Augustine Catholic Parish

Spiritual Food for The Journey...



In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that He is the true vine that God intended Israel to be—the source of divine life and wisdom for the nations (see [Sirach 24:17–24](#)).

In Baptism, each of us was joined to Him by the Holy Spirit. As a branch grows from a tree, our souls are to draw life from Him, nourished by His word and the Eucharist.

Paul in today's First Reading seeks to be grafted onto the visible expression of Christ the true vine—His Church. Once the chief persecutor of the Church, Paul encounters initial resistance and suspicion. But he is known by his fruits, by his powerful witness to the Lord working in his life (see [Matthew 7:16–20](#)).

We too are commanded today to bear good fruits as His disciples so that our lives give glory to God. Like Paul's life, our lives must bear witness to His goodness.

Jesus cautions us, however, that if we're bearing fruit, we can expect that God will “prune” us—as a gardener trims and cuts back a plant so that it will grow stronger and bear even more fruit. He is teaching us today how to look at our sufferings and trials with the eyes of faith. We need to see our struggles as pruning, by which we are being disciplined and trained so that we can grow in holiness and bear fruits of righteousness (see [Hebrews 12:4–11](#)).

We need to always remain rooted in Him, as today's Epistle tells us. We remain in Him by keeping His commandment of love, by pondering His words, letting them dwell richly in us (see [Colossians 3:16](#)), and by always seeking to do what pleases Him. In everything we must be guided by humility, remembering that apart from Him we can do nothing.

As we sing in today's Psalm, we must fulfill our vows, turning to the Lord in worship, proclaiming his praises, until all families come to know His justice in their lives.

Scott Hann



There is present within our local community a great deal of division regarding blessings for those couples in irregular situations. It is important to first always remember, that the Shepherd's heart must always remain open even to those whose lives may seemingly not be realized in accordance with the official position of the church.

As I think about blessings, I am reminded of the joy it brought so many inmates at the San Pedro Federal Prison in San Pedro California. These men had been a part of or participated in some of the most heinous crimes against humanity, yet when asking for a blessing there is never any hesitation. They were always blessed. In walking the streets of St. Petersburg and someone approaches me and says "pastor pray for me, bless me", that woman is a known addict and prostitute, do I deny her? No! I bless her and invite her to church. Our Christmas 2022 as the doors of my church opened and two immigrants entered, a man and a woman, only days after walking thousands of miles to cross our nations borders, they were in need, did I ask their state in life? Did I check to see if they had immigration documents, did I review their state of grace when they sought understanding? No, we helped them and blessed them, we provided for their needs which included a prayer and blessing.

I share these three examples noting only two things that they all held in common. They all had "irregular" lives, and they all desired God's blessing and mercy and the heart of the shepherd remained open to them. People of all ways of life seek compassion, understanding and healing even those whose lives may be "irregular" as individuals or couples and for some be considered cause for scandal. The church does not only seek God's blessing for those who follow faithfully her teaching. The heart of the shepherd, and the church must always be open to absolutely every human heart seeking to experience God's love, mercy and blessing. Praying that we all one day grow and live more perfectly the divine love that exists in our human hearts.

REV STEPHAN BROWN, SVD, PASTOR

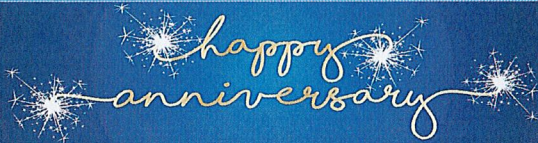
PARISH COMMUNICATIONS

Next Sunday's Readings-May 5, 2024

Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26,34-35,44-48 ~ Gift of the Holy Spirit

1 John 4:7-10 ~ God is Love

John 15:9-17 ~ Love One Another



- ◆ *John and May Cleaves—4/30*
- ◆ *Ernest and Phyllis Witherspoon—4/30*
- ◆ *Joseph and Lena Reese—5/1*
- ◆ *Marvin and Carmen Housley—5/1*



Jacquelyn Schasa—4/28

Portia Brown, Delores Crawford — 4/29

Dornetta Glover—4/30

Dianna Crawford, Sandra Holmes-Denton, Sheila

Lacey —5/1

Carl Ray—5/4

Prayer for Healing...

Foster Adams, Gloria Alsandor, Harold Adams Beamon, Annie Beck, Gerald Bond, Eugene Brassell, Gwen Collins, Helen Cooke, Longino Cooke, Patricia Cowart, Tina Crawford, Robert Crowley, Raye Dudley, Sharl Golden, David Green, Vivian Harris, Bernice Hayes, Darrell Hollimon, Marvin Housley, Sr., Mae Johnson, Dorothy Katoe, Mary King, Audrey McGhee, Florine McMillan, Hattie Moore, Raymond Moore, Sr., Oliver Peyton, Polk Puryear, Altonette Robinson, Floyd Shavers, Mayme Tuggle, Ben Wells, Eric Wells, Bertharene Young, Joyce Young, Joseph Young

LORD, MAY OUR DEARLY DEPARTED REST IN EVERLASTING PEACE

April 28 ~ J. B. Samuels, Susie Purdy, Earlene Ray

April 29 ~ Carl Webster, Marion Redmond, Vandy Banes, Jr.

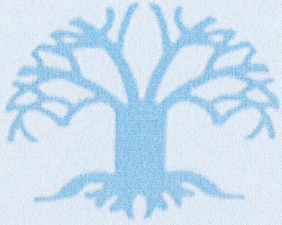
April 30 ~ Hettie McDaniels

May 1 ~ Judy B. Chambers, Kiles Johnson, T.R. Wilks, Susie B. Mitchell

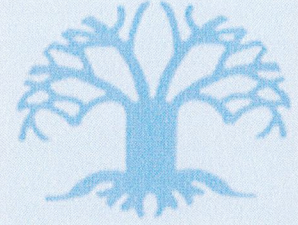
May 2 ~ Van Lucas, Edward Holliburton

May 3 ~ Bessie M. King, Thomas Agnew, David P. Edingburg, Vaster M. Johnson, Anthony Johnson





Announcements



The Health Ministry CPR class originally scheduled for May 25th has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

Join the Ladies Auxiliary of KPC at their Mother's Day Spring Breakfast on Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9 a.m. in the Gym. Tickets are \$20.00 each and are available in the narthex. Ads and patrons for the program / souvenir booklet will also be available. We look forward to seeing you there!

Contact Information: St. Augustine members, if you have recently or in the past couple of years changed your phone number or address, please notify the church office. This will ensure that you receive important information regarding the parish and our activities.

St. Augustine, on Monday, April 29th we will be hosting the Matsiko World Orphan Choir here at St. Augustine. They will be performing for us on Monday evening around 6:30pm. If you are unable to drive at night, carpool with someone who is able to drive. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to come and listen to a Grammy nominated choir who sings all over the world. Please consider joining us.

Don't miss the opportunity to contribute to The Archbishop James P. Lyke, O.F.M Memorial "G" Drive. Please consider making your gift of \$1000.00 by June 24th which commemorates the Ordination Anniversary of the Late Archbishop Lyke. Make Your Gift out to **"St Augustine Church"** in the Memo place the "Archbishop Lyke "G" Drive.

The revised weekday Mass schedule is as follows: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 12:00pm. Other Masses will remain the same: Saturday, 4:00pm and Sunday, 8:00am and 11:00am.

ST. AUGUSTINE GARDEN



BECOME A HEALTHIER YOU!!

**RAISED GARDEN PLOTS ARE AVAILABLE AND
LOCATED
BEHIND THE GYM**

PICK YOUR PLOT - PLANT YOUR SEEDS
PREPARE FOR THE BOUNTIFUL REWARD

GREAT THINGS ARE
HAPPENING HERE!!
-GROW WITH US-
COME GROW WITH US!!





MATSIKO

WORLD ORPHAN CHOIR



Hear the Joy | See the Hope | Feel the Love

Matsiko World Orphan Choir

Will be performing for us on Monday, April 29th at

6:30pm in the

W.P. Porter Gymnasium

Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary

The Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary are a historically Black Catholic congregation of nuns co-founded by **Mary Theodore Williams and Ignatius Lissner** in 1916. They follow the Rule of the Third Order of St. Francis. Their primary mission has always been education, primarily of children of the African-American community.

Mother Mary Theodore Williams received her education from the Ladies of the Sacred Heart and the Sisters of the Holy Family, second oldest society of African-American Catholic religious in the United States.

A bill in the Georgia legislature proposed to forbid white teachers from instructing black children. It threatened the closure of schools co-founded by Ignatius Lissner in Georgia and staffed by Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. When the two African-American congregations, the Oblate Sisters of Providence and the Holy Family Sisters, could supply no help, Lissner decided to form a new one. In 1915, while working at Trinity College in Washington, DC, Williams learned that Lissner, provincial of the Society of African Missions, needed a religious to found a congregation of black sisters in Savannah. On October 15, 1916, Mary Williams received the habit of the new order and took the name of Mother Mary Theodore.

The Georgia bill never passed, and the new sisters found little support. They taught by day and, to supplement their meagre earnings, ran a laundry business at night and begged along the waterfront on weekends. Thus, the sisters decided in 1924 to move the motherhouse of the congregation to Harlem in northern Manhattan, where it remains.

By 1925, there were sixteen members, eventually including women from the West Indies. In 1930, Williams had the congregation enrolled in the Franciscan family as members of the Third Order Regular, thus becoming the Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. Williams died in New York in August 1931.

MASS TIMES

Weekday

Monday ~ Wednesday ~ Thursday

12PM Chapel

Weekend

Saturday Vigil 4PM

Sunday 8AM and 11AM

